



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

In reply refer to:
L76 (SAMO)

August 20, 2004

Kathleen Mallory, Contract Planner
City of Malibu, Planning Division
23815 Stuart Ranch Rd.
Malibu, CA 90265

Dear Ms. Mallory:

The National Park Service has reviewed the Initial Study for General Plan Amendment No. 02-004 / Initial Study No. 04-003 / Negative Declaration No. 04-001, amending Figure OS-2 of the Open Space and Conservation Element in the Malibu General Plan, entitled the "Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains Areas Plan Trail System." The Initial Study included trail names and maps depicting the trails and recommended a Negative Declaration as the appropriate CEQA document. We provide non-regulatory, advisory comments on the effects of private and public land development and proposed public ordinances in the Santa Monica Mountains at the invitation of state and local units of government with authority to prevent or minimize adverse uses. To this end, we appreciate the opportunity to offer the following comments on the Initial Study for amending the City General Plan's trail system map.

We agree with the Initial Study's analysis of potential impacts from the proposed trails system. We concur, therefore, with the city's recommendation of a Negative Declaration for the proposed General Plan Amendment.

The National Park Service, California State Parks, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy are currently preparing a joint Interagency Regional Trail Management Plan for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). We seek to incorporate local municipalities' trail planning maps into our SMMNRA GIS Trail Inventory. We are glad to see the City's trail system map adequately reflects trail alignments for trails associated with the federal and state parklands adjacent to the City. The SMMNRA GIS Inventory of trail alignments, existing conditions, and proposed conditions will provide the basis for developing the forthcoming Trail Management Plan.

We request City planning staff meet with NPS, State Parks, and Conservancy trail planners prior to final adoption of the trail system map. We wish to review with the City the reference names for trails and trailheads. Some names in the City's plan differ from the trail and trailhead names used by the National Park Service and other parkland agencies. Trail user surveys document that good trail signage enhances the park visitor's enjoyment of the trail network. Having common trail names among the managing agencies will facilitate uniformly

named trails on signs, trailheads, as well as on trail maps. Additionally, we would like to discuss other aspects of implementing the trail system, including use designation, signage standards, and implementation strategies for completing missing links in the public trail network.

Thank you for considering the National Park Service's input. We look forward to working with the City on implementing the planned trail system. If we can be of assistance, please call Melanie Beck, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at (805) 370-2346.

Sincerely,

for Woody Smeck
Woody Smeck
Superintendent

cc: Joe Edmiston, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Ron Schafer, Superintendent, Angeles District, State Department of Parks and Recreation